Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP)

Workshop

Mobile, Alabama

March 8 - 9, 2007

Mobile District

AGENDA

THUSDAY, MARCH 8

1:30 - 1:45	Intro, Objectives, & Overview of GRSMMP	Larry Parson - Mobile District
1:45 - 2:15	Regional Sediment Processes	Jeff Waters - ERDC
2:15 - 2:45	Scientific Assessment Workshop Summary	Jeff Waters
2:45 - 3:05	Break	
3:05 - 5:00	State RSM (Facilitated Discussion)	Mark Dunning (facilitator)
	Problems, Opportunities, Priorities, and Sediment Needs	
5:00	Adjourn	

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

USACE Dredging Activities

8:00 - 8:25	Galveston District	Bob Heinly - Galveston District
8:25 - 8:50	New Orleans District	Ed Creef - New Orleans District
8:50 - 9:15	Mobile District	Larry Parson - Mobile District
9:15 - 9:40	Jacksonville District	Jonas White - Jacksonville District
9:40 - 10:05	Dredging Activities - Open Discussion	Group
10:05 - 10:25	Break	
10:25 - 11:10	Direction and Form of GRSMMP	Mark Dunning (facilitator)
11:10 - 11:30	Wrap-up	Larry Parson
	(Action items, next meeting, next workshop)	
11:30	Adjourn	

Overview

- The Gulf coast's natural resources are under increasing pressures
  - erosion, storms, subsidence, sea level rise, pollution, development …
- Sediment is a basic element within natural systems
- Ecosystems and wildlife are the ultimate benefactors
  - positive and negative
- Directly related to vital economic and ecological benefits
  - wetland habitats, commerce, storm protection, recreation …
- Challenge to states: protect, restore, and conserve these valuable resources
  - develop policies, funding mechanisms, and optimal regional utilization of sediment resources
- Requires holistic approach
  - recognizing sediment as a regional resource
  - change practice of project specific management
  - more effective management decisions

How to effectively move sediment from where it is not wanted to where it is most beneficial with minimal interruptions to the natural regional sediment transport processes

Workshop Objectives

- Become more familiar with the regional sediment transport processes relating to RRCT activities
- State-of-the-science for sediment studies in the GOM
- Discuss, understand, and record the key issues involved in managing sediment resources related to RRCT actions
- Develop a better understanding of potential sediment resources from the federal dredging program
- Establish a consensus across the Gulf states to provide guidance towards the direction and development of the regional plan
- Develop a strategy to elevate and motivate the regional master plan

Objectives/Purpose: To develop a Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan, that uses the understanding of sediment dynamics (inputs, outputs, movement) to manage sediment resources to accomplish environmental restoration, conservation, and preservation, while reducing coastal erosion and coastal storm damages and associated costs of sediment management.

The Plan will provide a basis for linking sources of sediment with sediment needs, assessing competing needs for sediment, fostering more cost effective sediment management, and for developing regional strategies for sediment management that:

- make more effective use of sediment from inlets, navigation channels and other sources in support of environmental and economic objectives

- coordinate the collection and dissemination of data about the movement of sediment to better integrate the understanding of regional sediment process into planning, management and other decisions,

- facilitate cooperation among states, federal agencies, and other stakeholders in sediment management.